

McCarthy

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"If we fail, that failure shall not arise from a want of strict adherence to principle or attention and fidelity to the trust we assume."

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Hands Off The CIA!

IF THIS WERE 1890 or 1900, we could do without the Central Intelligence Agency very nicely.

But this is an era when we are confronted by a twin-forked conspiratorial effort to infiltrate and destroy free governments everywhere, in the guise of Communist "progress" or "liberation."

Our adversaries are extremely shrewd and very daring. Morality and laws are things they laugh at—or pervert to their advantage. They know every trick in the book on how to undermine a government or compromise its officials—or, failing that, to assassinate them. They are expert at terrorism, espionage and counterespionage.

We have had no agency to parry their thrusts until the Central Intelligence Agency came into being. The CIA does not supersede the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is the investigative branch of the Department of Justice and has been a very competent performer in the realm of Federal law. But the CIA ranges the world, collecting intelligence important to the national defense wherever it may be found. It also has a role in counterintelligence, and in dealing with insurgency.

The successes of the CIA—and there have been many—are not advertised. On the other hand, it has been made the fall guy for almost all the miscues and operations that went awry.

The Bay of Pigs affair was blamed upon meddling by the CIA. If a well-documented history of this is ever written, it will show that the blame for turning the initially successful invasion into a disaster lies elsewhere.

DAILY THOUGHT:

A man's greatest strength develops at the point where he overcomes his greatest weakness—Elmer G. Leterman

The CIA took many tongue-lashings over the U-2 flight of Francis Gary Powers—although many previous overflights by U-2 planes had informed us of the true missile strength of Russia, and protected us from possibly ruinous blackmail by the USSR.

Sen. James William Fulbright (D., Ark.) led the outcries over the Powers incident and joined in the general embarrassment of former President Eisenhower when Nikita Khrushchev staged his outburst and stalked out of the planned Paris summit conference.

Of late there has been a movement to turn over supervision of the CIA to a senatorial or joint Senate-House committee "preferably headed by someone of the mental breadth and foresight of Senator Fulbright."

When it comes to dealing with the hard realities of the world, we scarcely would rate Senator Fulbright over CIA directors the likes of Allen Dulles, John McCone and Vice Adm. William Raborn.

We know how Senator Fulbright feels about keeping a wary eye over a potentially dangerous enemy.

In addition to the U-2 incident, there was the time when the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee arose in the Senate on June 29, 1961, and said:

"The possibility of Soviet missile bases and jet aircraft bases in Cuba is frequently noted. I suppose we would all be less comfortable if the Soviets did install missile

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bases in Cuba, but I am not sure that our national existence would be in substantially greater danger, nor do I think that such bases would substantially alter the balance of power in the world."

John McCone, then heading the CIA, was the only one of the late President Kennedy's advisers to warn him that Russia was installing the missiles in Cuba, and that they would constitute a cocked nuclear gun aimed at the heart of America.

Senator Fulbright's Senate speech in the latter part of June, 1961, must have attracted the attention of the Kremlin. And if—as some say—Secretary of State Dean Acheson had invited the attack on South Korea by saying in a speech that it was "outside the perimeter of American defenses," Senator Fulbright as much as invited the Russians to install missiles in Cuba by indicating it wouldn't make much difference to the United States if they did. Even as the bases were being built and the nuclear rockets (with a potential killing power of some 40 million people east of the Mississippi) were being stashed alongside their erectors, columnist Walter Lippmann—another proponent of the theory that the CIA must be brought to heel—was writing:

"The present Cuban military is not only not capable of offensive action, but it is also not capable of defensive action against the United States."

Senator Fulbright and his fellow-thinkers were critical of our intervention in the Dominican Republic when a Communist-Castro revolt erupted, and the U. S. position there has been moderated if not emasculated as a result of his dabbling in the matter. More recently, he has spearheaded a "can't-win" philosophy with regard to the Vietnamese war.

Wouldn't he be a dandy to station at the jugular of our CIA?

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